

**FINAL REPORT**  
Battle Creek Education Project  
1448-11330-97-J075  
WSRCD #30-1A

**ABSTRACT**

This program provided funds for the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy (BCWC) to conduct educational programs for the public and local school children in the Battle Creek watershed to better understand the watershed restoration program and how the planned restoration in Battle Creek will effect wild fish populations. The focus of the educational materials used with the teachers and children included life cycle/habitat needs of anadromous fish, the impacts human activities have on those requirements and how both can coexist, and the natural process of the Battle Creek watershed, its unique hydrology and related topics. The program provided for an AmeriCorp volunteer to act as a service learning coordinator for the Manton, Mineral, and Black Butte schools who helped with the Klamath Weed Project, which included helping the children with a weed eradication day, geology presentation, Earth Day celebration, distributing information at the Return of the Salmon Festival, a river field trip and more. The other major focus of this project was to expand the distribution of the Battle Creek Watershed Community Strategy to as many people as possible in the watershed through community meetings, display booths, and news articles.

**BACKGROUND**

The tasks for this \$10,000 grant were modified mid-term due to the change in personnel at the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District. The final agreed upon task list included:

- |                                                                             |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| a. Use of an AmeriCorps Volunteer, Service Learning Coordinator for schools | \$4,514 |
| b. Educate school children regarding fish in their watershed.               | 4,586   |
| c. Expand the distribution of the BCWC draft strategy.                      | 500     |
| d. Hold two community meetings.                                             | 250     |
| e. Submit articles/press releases to media.                                 | 150     |

Total:        \$10,000

**DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA**

The Battle Creek watershed is unique and diverse in its natural resources from the mouth of Battle Creek on the valley floor to the eastern boundary, the top of Lassen Peak and the Latour Peak, origins of the South and North Forks respectively. The watershed encompasses the southeastern portion of Shasta County and the northeastern portion of Tehama County, east of the Sacramento River. Its 240,126 acres range from the alpine areas high in Lassen National Volcanic Park, down through coniferous forests on to the Sacramento River. The volcanic geology of the area created the numerous spring-fed streams that flow through coniferous forests, oak woodlands, and foothill areas, through rugged canyons to the flood plains and riparian forests on to the Sacramento River.

The mid-reaches of the watershed include thousands of acres of private timberlands and private recreation areas with outstanding trout fisheries. Communities are sprinkled throughout. Key features are Camp Latiez, an education camp owned by the Shasta County Department of Education, apple orchards, vineyards, ranches, range lands, several private and a state-owned fish hatchery, hydroelectric power plants, Coleman National Fish Hatchery, Bureau of Land Management lands and vast expanses of open range. The watershed encompasses three major communities, each with its own school district: Manton, Manton Elementary School; Mineral, Mineral Elementary School; and Shingletown, Black Butte Elementary School and Black Butte Middle School.

## **METHODS AND MATERIALS**

The primary methods and materials used in implementing the grant tasks were educational, i.e., inservice workshops for teachers and students; informational community meetings to distribute and discuss the Battle Creek Watershed Strategy; booth displays at various community festivals and functions; newspaper articles to inform watershed communities of the community strategy and current activities.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PROJECT**

### **Task A. Educate school children regarding fish in their watershed.**

The BCWC Watershed Coordinator, Sharon Paquin-Gilmore, met with the Manton, Mineral, and Shingletown teachers several times in a workshop format to discuss and develop a watershed education program for the local schools. One of the main concerns that all the teachers expressed was implementing a program that integrated and supported the curriculum requirements of each grade level. After careful consideration of various materials and approaches to watershed education, the coordinator and teachers agreed on the Adopt-A-Watershed program. Two of the teachers have participated in Adopt-A-Watershed trainings and are familiar with the materials; the other teachers helped to select the specific materials they thought would be best suited for their classrooms and curriculum. The purchase of these materials represents the completion of the first part of the Battle Creek Education Project. The Battle Creek Curriculum Development Project (1448-11330-J018A) is now underway.

### **Task B. Expand the distribution of the Battle Creek Watershed Community Strategy.**

The condensed version of the BCWC Strategy was completed in June 2000. Since then copies of the strategy, approximately 100, have been distributed at two community meetings, at the local school libraries, and at key community businesses. An additional 300 copies were made in November 2000. The BCWC strategy is also available by request (copies are mailed upon request). The BCWC Board is planning a community meeting at the Manton Grange in the near future to discuss current Board activities and to continue the distribution of the strategy document.

### **Task C. Hold two community meetings on the completed strategy document.**

On June 20, 2000, the BCWC Board of Directors co-hosted a community meeting in Manton with the Bureau of Reclamation. Although the main purpose of the meeting was

a "scoping" meeting to discuss the fish screen and intake improvements to Coleman National Fish Hatchery, the BCWC Board had a "station" at which Paquin-Gilmore answered questions about and distributed copies of the strategy document. On September 16, 2000, the BCWC Board held a public meeting in Shingletown specifically to discuss and distribute copies of the strategy document. Representatives of the BCWC Board and various agencies and organizations involved in the Battle Creek Restoration Project were on hand to answer questions directly related to the BCWC Strategy.

**Task D. Prepare and submit two in-depth articles to news media about the strategy.** BCWC Coordinator, Sharon Paquin-Gilmore wrote two in-depth articles about the BC strategy, which were submitted for publication to two local newspapers, the Ridge Rider News, and the Red Bluff Daily News, and will likely be published.

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Battle Creek Education Project Grant funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program has provided the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy with the opportunity to take the necessary preliminary steps to organize and plan a watershed education program in the local schools. This plan has the support and participation of the administrators and teachers of the schools and, we believe, will be successfully implemented because of that support.

This grant has also provided the BCWC with the means to produce and distribute copies of the Battle Creek Watershed Community Strategy, a document which represents the goals and objectives of a large number of watershed stakeholders. Since this strategy is intended to be an adaptive management plan, it is the intent of the BCWC to continue to pursue community input regarding watershed issues; the strategy document will reflect this ongoing input.

It is clear that local watershed education, both at the community level and in the schools, is essential to the success of any form of watershed restoration. It is the intent of the BCWC to continue to develop and implement education programs in order to support the Battle Creek Restoration Program and to achieve its goal: *"To preserve the environmental and economic resources of the Battle Creek watershed through responsible stewardship, liaison, cooperation, and education."*

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Amended Task List

Ameri-Corp Report

December 2000 BCWC Newsletter

April 2000 BCWC Newsletter

June 2000 BCWC Newsletter

Flyer posted at all community meetings on strategy

Flyer posted for meeting on June 20, 2000

News Articles on June 20, 2000 meeting

Sign In Sheet for June 20, 2000 meeting

Flyer posted for meeting on September 16, 2000 in Manton

Sign In Sheet for September 16, 2000 meeting

Article submitted to local newspaper: Battle Creek Watershed Community Strategy Plan:

Its History and Purpose

Article submitted to local newspaper: Battle Creek Watershed Community Strategy:

Progress Report

Order For Adopt-A-Watershed Materials